

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 December 2021

Report of the Head of Service, Community North and County Acute & Prisons

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2021/22

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Sue Lott, Tel: (01772) 538230, Head of Service, Community North and County Acute & Prisons, sue.lott@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

The Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan has been updated for 2021/22, to reflect the services in place and the social care planning and response to winter pressures.

This winter is anticipated to be more challenging than ever, and the plan includes information about various actions being taken across the winter period, and the proposed social care capacity enhancements to provide resilience and system support.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (ii) Support the ongoing work of Adult Social Care to ensure people who need social care support across the winter period, coupled with the continuing pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges across the care sector, get the right support for them at the right time.

Detail

Winter planning is a necessary and critical part of business planning, to set out business continuity and managing major areas of risk during what is a pressured season of the year.

This year's Adult Social Care Winter Plan, as set out at Appendix 'A', has required the county council to take account of the continued challenges and pressures across the health and social care sector in relation to COVID-19, as well as an increasing and sustained pressure across the care market.

The NHS's work to restore its services and address the large numbers of people awaiting appointments, healthcare and treatment, continues alongside national requirements to commence new service initiatives such as the 2-hour urgent care response service. Without robust social care services in place, the NHS locally would be unable to deliver against its trajectory.

The challenges seen currently across the social care market at a sustained and increasing level of risk, are unprecedented. The position in Lancashire mirrors the regional and national position and is resulting in significant challenges in various parts of the county. Further workforce risks are likely to materialise across the coming months in the care home sector, as mandatory vaccination requirements mean a percentage of the workforce will exit the sector. The growing risk to ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to meet peoples' needs, keep people safe and ensure continued 'flow' across the system is not to be underestimated, and will be exacerbated through the winter months.

Whilst still subject to formal approval, officers have been largely working to the principles of the updated Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan since 1 November 2021 and the plan will run until 31 March 2022. There are no financial or operational risks associated with the implementation date which has been set to match the 'winter' period. The plan sets out the range of actions and service capacity enhancements put in place to support social care resilience, as well as to support the effective delivery of health and care services across the winter period. The plan includes how Government grants will be utilised to support care providers with vaccinations, infection prevention and recruitment, as well as setting out additional service capacity in critical services such as crisis support and Reablement to support people in their own homes. The plan also sets out how Adult Social Care will work with the NHS and other partners, to support people to leave hospital as soon as they are ready, or to remain in their own home as independently as possible, with the right care and support at the right time.

Adult Social Care will continue to work with each Place Based Partnership (formally known as Integrated Care Partnerships) on winter resilience and contingency actions. Where appropriate, a pan Lancashire approach will be undertaken, to maximise system resilience and the benefits of the deployment of resources.

Funding has been identified through flexible use of COVID-19 related grants and monies; spend and performance will be monitored throughout the implementation of the plan.

The plan will be shared both internally within the county council and with each A&E Delivery Board across Lancashire, for inclusion in the system wide winter planning and delivery reporting.

Consultations

The plan has been developed in consultation with relevant teams and key individuals within Lancashire County Council. Winter planning overall has taken place within each Place Based Partnership and across the Integrated Care System.

Implications:

Risk management

The Adult Social Care Winter Plan will be subject to monitoring throughout the winter period, to ensure its full delivery and the achievement of key outcomes.

The key risks for Adult Social Care include:

- Limited options to secure additional staff, due to the current challenges across both the social care market and the social work and occupational therapy professions with regards to recruitment, and in respect of the care market in particular, the retention of staff;
- Risk of further fragility in the care market and disruptions to peoples' care and support;
- Impact from any further periods of increased COVID-19 restrictions;
- There is significant demand for Adult Social Care staff to attend meetings on the planning of collaborative work, which is drawing them away from delivering on critical elements across the pressured winter period;
- Unintended consequences of decisions made by one organisation adversely impacting on another.

Mitigating actions have been set out in relation to key risks. The Adult Social Care and Health Partnership will be holding the ring around social care delivery and partnership working across the winter period. The Partnership is working to ensure we operate together as one collaborative system, and to ensure there are no unintended consequences of decisions made by one organisation impacting on another either financially or in terms of workforce moves.

Continuity and resilience plans have also been under multi agency scrutiny and challenge through a contingency event under the Adult Social Care and Health Partnership.

Financial

The planned spend on additional staffing and externally commissioned services is:

- Flexible use of COVID-19 and winter related funding of £5.253m.

- Capacity to flexibly fund some elements through use of the Covid Outbreak Management Fund as appropriate to the regulations.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A